

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /076 W

----- 014648

R 021044Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3620

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0675

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI AO

SUBJECT: HIGH COMMISSIONER FORCED TO MODIFY HIS STRIDENT STAND
ON MPLA

1. ON MAY 29 THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, GENERAL SILVA CARDOSO, ISSUED
A COMMUNIQUE BLAMING MPLA FOR THE RECENT ATTACKS IN THE "DEMBOS"
AND THREATING TO USE AIR POWER TO RESTORE ORDER.

2. ON MAY 31 HE ISSUED ANOTHER COMMUNIQUE "CLARIFYING" HIS EARLIER
STATEMENT ON THE USE OF AIR POWER. HE ADMITTED HIS MAY 29 STATE-
MENT HAD CAUSED A "MISUNDERSTANDING" WITH "ONE OF THE MOVEMENTS"
AND STATED THAT HE MERELY MENT TO "DEMONSTRATE MY FIRM INTENTION
TO USE ALL THE MEANS AT MY DISPOSAL TO ACHIEVE PEACE". "THE
WARNING WAS NOT MEANT SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS MOVEMENT."

3. OF COURSE THE MAY 29 COMMUNIQUE WAS TARGETED DIRECTLY AT MPLA
AND THE ONLY EXPLANATION FOR THE H.C.'S RETREAT IS PRESSURE FROM
WITHIN THE AFM IN ANGOLA FOR HIM TO ADOPT A MORE BALANCED POSITION
IN REGARD TO THE PROTAGONISTS. WHILE EVEN THE PRO-MPLA ELEMENTS IN
THE AFM REALIZE THIS LAST ROUND WAS A PLANNED AND COORDINATED
ATTACK BY MPLA, IT FEELS THE H.C. HAS GONE TOO FAR IN FAVORING
FNLA AND APPARENTLY HAS FORCED HIM TO ADOPT A MORE EVEN HANDED
POSITION. THIS INCIDENT ILLUSTRATES THE DISPOSITION OF POWER
WITHIN THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY HERE IN ANGOLA. THE H.C. CAN LEAD
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AND ACT INDEPENDENTLY BUT HE MUST BE CAREFUL TO GLANCE OVER HIS

SHOULDER AND REMAIN IN STEP WITH HIS MORE "PROGRESSIVE" FELLOW
OFFICERS. WHEN HE GETS TOO FAR AHEAD, THE AFM WATCHDOGS HERE GO
OVER HIS HEAD TO LISBON.
PORTER

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NNN

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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